



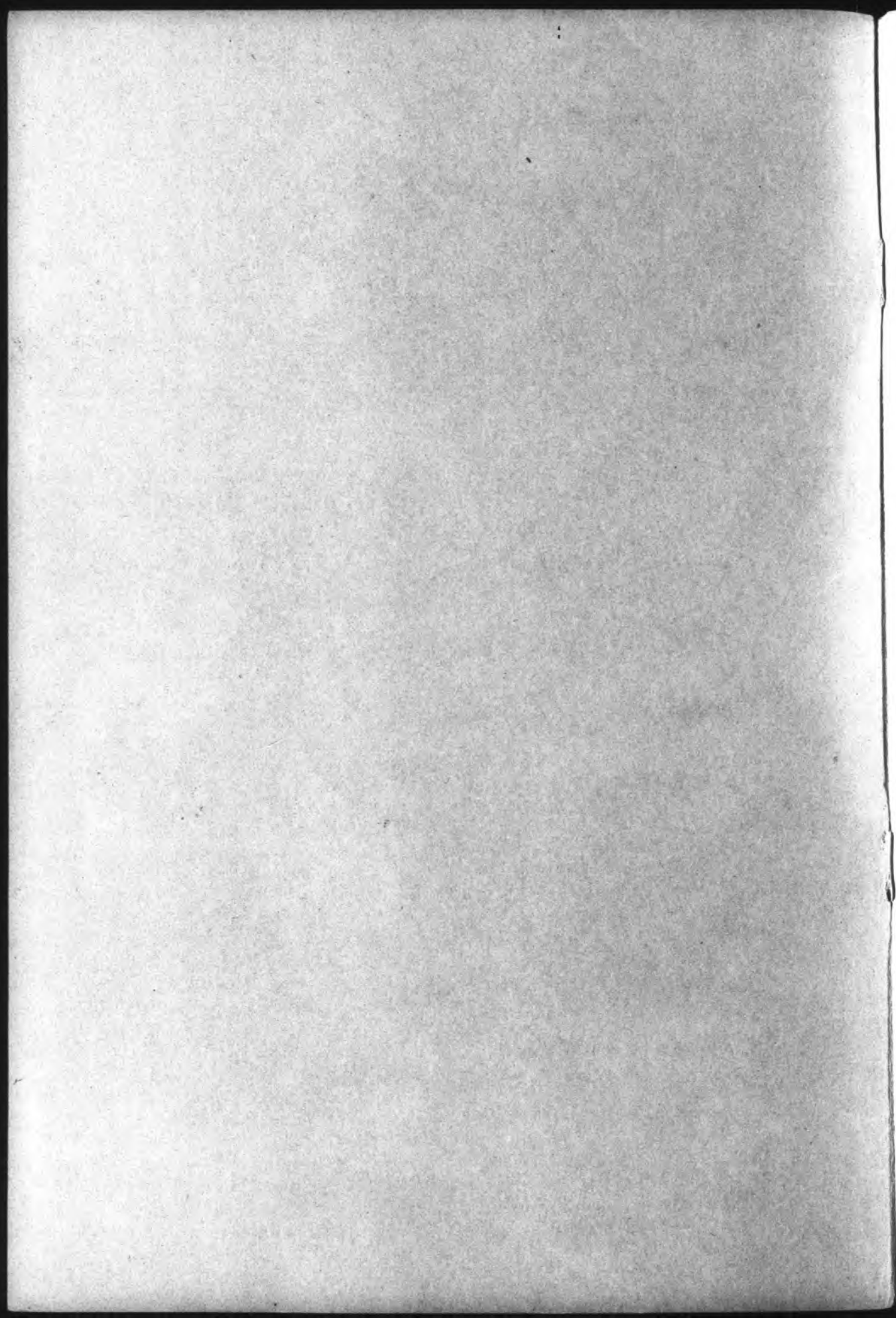
FLORIDA STATE LIBRARY

BIENNIAL REPORT

FLORIDA COMMISSION OF GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH

Biennium Ending December 31, 1936





FLORIDA
Biennial Report

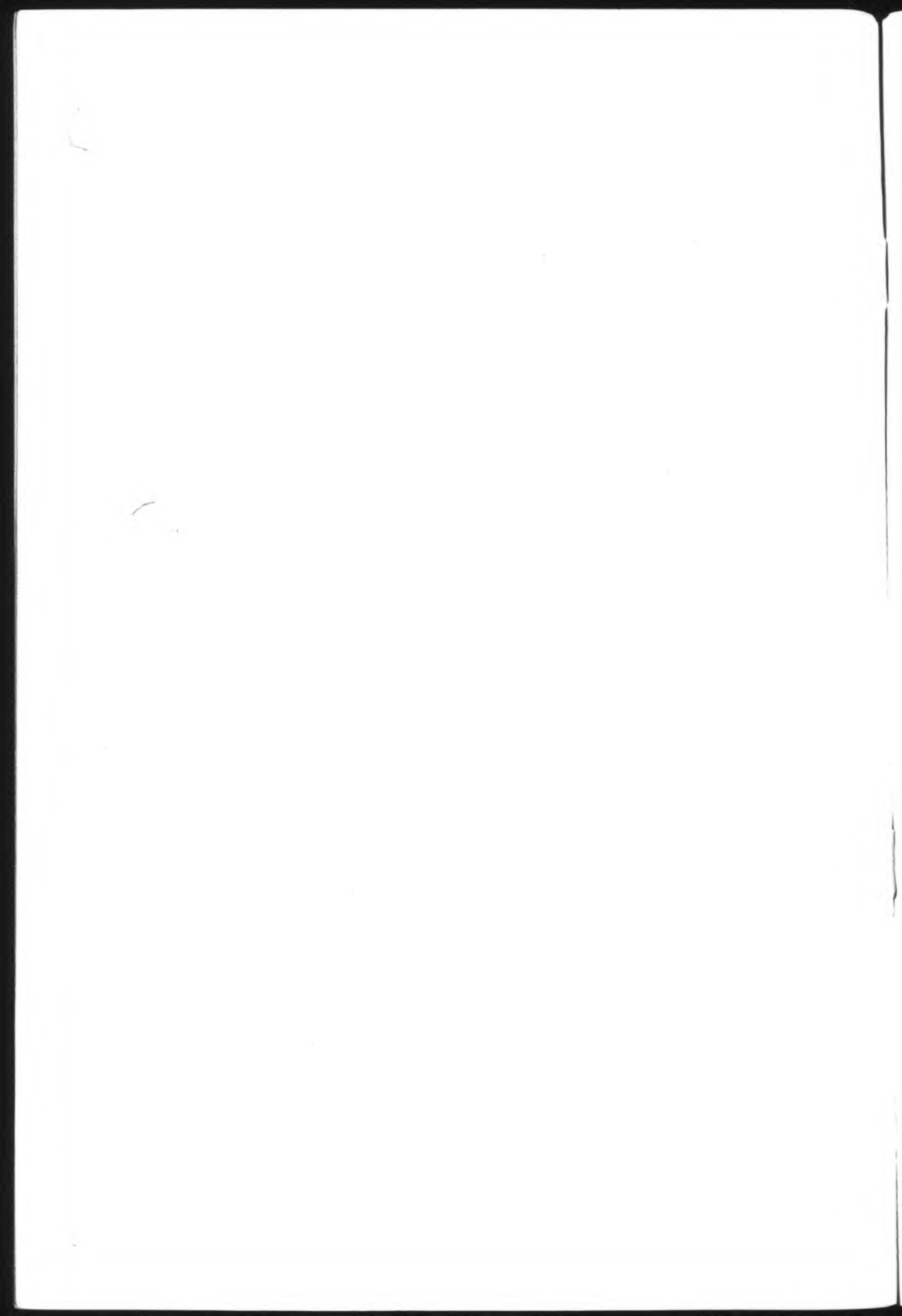
COMMISSION OF GAME AND
FRESH WATER FISH

BIENNIUM ENDING

December 31, 1936



I. N. KENNEDY
Executive Secretary
Tallahassee, Florida



SUBMITTING REPORT

Tallahassee, Florida.

February 15, 1937.

To

Honorable Henry Wiesenfeld, Chairman.
Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish.
State of Florida.

Sir:

I herewith submit the report of the work of the State Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish, for the conservation of Florida's wildlife resources, during the biennium closing December 31, 1936.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. N. Kennedy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name "Executive Secretary".

Executive Secretary.

FLORIDA

COMMISSION OF GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH

F. G. GARNER, 1st Congressional District,
Winter Haven

HENRY WIESENFELD, 2nd Congressional District,
Jacksonville

GEORGE L. HENDERSON, 3rd Congressional District,
Tallahassee

HERBERT L. SCHALLER, 4th Congressional District,
Miami

HARRY L. McDONALD, 5th Congressional District,
Orlando

HENRY WIESENFELD, Chairman

I. N. KENNEDY, Executive Secretary

Executive Offices, State Capitol,
Tallahassee

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL


Tallahassee, Florida, March 1, 1937.

To His Excellency,
Fred Preston Cone,
Governor of the State of Florida.

Sir:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith, the biennial report of work that has been done for the conservation of Florida's wildlife resources, as directed by the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish during the period intervening from the time of the organization of the Commission, July 1, 1935 and the close of the Biennium, December 31, 1936.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. W. Mumford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Chairman of the Commission.



"Out Fishin' "

PART I

FOREWORD

Florida is preeminently an outdoor State. Not only do its climate and its many natural resources make it a good place in which to live but these, with other outdoor physical resources, furnish the basis for much of the development and wealth which has made the Florida of today possible.

These resources are utilized almost as they came from the hand of the Creator. With the exception of mineral deposits, they may be retained or renewed by wise handling, or, abused, exploited, they may be seriously depleted and finally lost. Even climate and beaches are affected by the operations which man carries on. The relation of these natural resources to Florida's future prosperity give a very great importance to the Conservation of Natural Resources in this State.

Florida's wildlife resources have many values. They may be classified as aesthetic, recreational, economic, which, though separated here, are closely interrelated. The appeal of deep woods, the clear flowing streams, of the still waters of the blue lakes is a large part of the appeal that leads the angler to put his fisherman's luck to the test. With equal force the yellowing fields of autumn, the red and gold of the woodland, the intelligent work of a well trained pointer or setter is as large a part of the picture in the true sportsman's eye as is the number of birds that fill his bag.

For that reason pictured Florida, sold to the world, presents the myriads of stately waterbirds, egrets in their bridal plumage, herons—blue, white, green, the exquisite roseate spoon-bill, the picturesque ibis—close kinsman of the sacred ibis of Egypt, the rusty alligator burdened with his years, the inquisitive raccoon, the sleepy opossum, as well as the bounding buck, the graceful doe and the spotted fawn, the whirring covey of bobwhites and the regal wild turkey of Florida—a dwindling remnant of a lordly race. This dual appeal of the aesthetic and recreational gives rise to the third value, the Economic, for outdoor Florida with its conscious sparkle of wildlife, fish, game and non-game birds and mammals, to be found in their rich habitat in the open and under Florida's matchless climate, brings annually to the State the tourist business, estimated to produce an annual revenue of more than \$200,000,000.00 Were Florida's wildlife judged alone by the dollar yardstick here were reason sufficient to preserve it.

ADDITIONAL VALUES

Additional values briefly cited would be:

1. The supply of food that goes direct to the table of the man who takes it.
2. The commercial fishing industry with its varied lines of operation, valued at from \$6,000,000.00 to \$20,000,000.00.
3. The fur and trapping industry, valued at from \$500,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00 annually.
4. The value of birds to the truck crops, groves and forests of Florida, as destroyers of insect pests and their destruction of insects that are carriers of disease germs.
5. The character building power of life in the open.

Men who grow up loving the out-of-doors, knowing its laws of life, close to nature are not often far from Nature's God. Yearly the numbers who go on the gipsy trail increase. Permanent returns are measured in terms of interest and joy found in a knowledge of the wild and the life habits of its denizens, their beauty and worth to men who hunt with sharp eyes, field glasses and cameras. No State has more to offer to the outdoor-minded than has Florida.

The preservation for visitors and residents of these values, the rebuilding where depleted, is entirely within the reach of the possible. It needs unprejudiced consideration, wise planning, and efficient execution to make the possibility a reality. It is worthy of such.

REPORT

With title to wildlife vested in the State, this agency alone has the right to regulate the taking, method of taking, possession and disposition of wildlife, (with the exception of migratory bird life), or to withhold such. This is the basis for game legislation. Protective legislation for wildlife is a development of comparatively modern times. Florida's first Game Law was written in 1828. First laws were general in their application. Local Game Laws are a development almost entirely of the past twenty-five years. They are indicative of the awakening of the people to the decline in the wildlife supply and the need of protection if it was to be saved.

States usually have built their conservation program along three well defined lines: Protection, Propagation, Education. Florida has followed this plan. The report that follows gives a brief account of this work in Florida during the eighteen

months that ended December 31st, 1936, the period during which the State Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish has functioned as such.

Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish Created

One June 8th, 1935, the Governor of Florida signed a Bill which, by amending Chapter 13644, Acts of 1929, created the State Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish. It vested in the newly created Commission all duties, powers and responsibilities, so far as they relate to the game and non-game birds, animals, fresh water fish found in Florida, which had previously been vested in other agencies.

The Act creating the Commission provided that it should consist of five persons appointed by the Governor, one from each Congressional District, to serve "for a period of four years, EXCEPT that in appointing the first membership of the Commission, one shall be appointed for a term of one year, two for a term of two years, one for a term of three years and one for the full term of four years. At the expiration of the several terms of office of said members each successor shall be appointed for a full term of four years. No member shall be appointed to the Commission unless he shall be informed on the subject of wildlife, conservation and restoration."

Commission Appointed

Under the law the following members were appointed:

For term of ONE year, C. G. Magruder, Orlando, 5th District.

For term of TWO years, Henry Wiesenfeld, Jacksonville 2nd District.

For term of TWO years, George L. Henderson, Tallahassee, 3rd District.

For term of THREE years, H. L. Schaller, Miami, 4th District.

For term of FOUR years, F. G. Garner, Winter Haven, 1st District.

Commissioners serve without pay. It is required that quarterly meetings be held at Tallahassee. Called meetings are permitted. Expense allowance for each Commissioner is limited to \$300.00 each year.

ORGANIZATION

At its first meeting in Tallahassee, June 25th, 1936, Mr. Henry Wiesenfeld was made Chairman of the Commission; Dr. I. N. Kennedy was elected Executive Secretary. Authority

was given him to name for appointment or for removal, with the consent of the Commissioner of each respective District, the five Chief Officers of the five Congressional Districts. The following were named:

P. L. Lilly, Winter Haven, 1st District.

*B. F. Mizell, Gainesville, 2nd District.

J. P. Anthony, Apalachicola, 3rd District.

Newton Lewis, Miami, 4th District.

James A. Black, Pine Castle, 5th District.

*Resigned to accept appointment of Motor Vehicle Commissioner. C. E. Clarke, Jr., Jacksonville, appointed to succeed him.

Two Superintendents of Fish Hatcheries.

Chief Officers were authorized to recommend to the Executive Secretary for appointment or for removal the County Conservation Officers for their respective Districts. To complete organization, the budget approved at the initial meeting of the Commission, provided for the following:

Office Staff

Secretary-Stenographer	Mrs. J. P. Koscielny
Director Education	Miss Sarah W. Partridge
Bookkeeper-Auditor	Mr. C. R. Phillips

Rewards Offered

One further expense was authorized at this initial meeting—a cash reward of \$100.00 for information that would lead to the arrest and conviction of any party or parties found guilty of taking deer, turkey or quail illegally (Said reward not available to law enforcement officers). At the August meeting this was amended to provide a \$25.00 reward for information that would lead to arrest and conviction of any one selling black bass. During the eighteen months of operation covered by this report there were eleven claimants to whom rewards were paid, nine for the \$100.00 reward, two for the \$25.00 reward. Results in quickened interest on the part of the public in this feature of law enforcement, which tended to focus attention on law violations and win for law enforcement stronger support, have justified the continuance of the offer.

With organization complete the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish set itself about the task of conserving and rebuilding the wildlife resources of Florida. How the Commission has operated, what has been accomplished, and the program for future development is the subject of this report.



"Pals"

HOW THE COMMISSION HAS OPERATED

Finances

The Game Law provides that the sole source of revenue for the conservation of game and non-game birds, animals and fresh water fish in Florida shall come from the sale of licenses for hunting, fishing, trapping, boats-for-hire, fresh water fish dealers, guides, game farm operators and fur dealers.

While limiting revenue to that produced by the administration of the law, the Act of 1935 also provides that "The funds resulting from the administration of this law shall constitute the State Game Fund, and shall be used in carrying out the provisions thereof and for no other purpose."

Florida has an area nearly as large as the New England States; a wildlife that attracts; a climate that makes it delightful to go into the woods and fields 365 days in the year; thereby necessitating the guarding of wildlife 365 days in a year if this priceless heritage shall be safe from the scoff-laws who are found among those who go into the open.

District Budgets

When the Commission began operations, July 1st, 1935, there was but \$29,369.54 in the State Game Fund, and no considerable increase in prospect until the sale of hunting licenses for the general hunting season, which would open November 20th following. The Commission established as its policy "Operation within the limits of the funds in hand." Lack of revenue, always a limiting factor in this big field, necessarily curtailed operations until funds could be secured from licenses sold. In budgeting for immediate operations the Chief Conservation Officers of each of the Five Districts were given salaries of \$150.00 a month each, with an expense account of the same sum; staff employees, three in number, were placed upon the same salary basis; an allotment of \$1,000.00 to each of the Five Districts for salary and travel of County Conservation Officers was made, each man to furnish and operate a car.

On this basis 46 men were employed, most of them at an average of \$100.00 per month to cover salary and travel. As revenue increased monthly allotments have been increased. During the last quarter of 1936, they averaged \$2,000.00 per district, the number of men was raised to 80 (including extra men for the open hunting season) and salaries plus travel averaged \$125.00 per month.

In the interest of fair practice and efficiency in service, the Commission plans, as revenue will warrant, to increase amounts allotted for County Officers until such amounts shall be commensurate with the service demanded. It further plans to expand its educational program and undertake the necessary work in restocking.

Revenue

During the first fiscal year under the Commission, revenues from the sale of Hunting, Fishing and Trapping licenses totaled \$144,400.00 and from Commercial licenses, \$5,620.80, giving a grand total of \$150,020.80. During the last six months for which this report is made, closing December 31st, 1936, revenues, which included the heavy sales of the hunting season, yielded for hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, \$124,584.00, and for Commercial licenses, \$3,766.50—or a grand total for that period of \$128,350.50. It is estimated that revenue for the remainder of this fiscal year, closing June 30th, 1937 will bring the total to \$170,000.00.

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT

A summarized statement for the fiscal year closing June 30th, 1936, and for the period extending from that date to December 31st, 1936, follows:

CLASSIFIED LIST OF LICENSES SOLD BY COUNTY JUDGES

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1936

June 30, 1936 to Dec. 31, 1936

Fishing Licenses:

	Price	Number Issued	Amount	Number Issued	Amount
Series A—Resident State	\$2.00	7,628	\$15,256.00	3,169	\$ 6,338.00
Series B—Non-Resid. State	5.00	3,443	17,475.00	1,159	5,795.00
Series C—Non-Resident— 3 Day Trip	1.50	4,106	6,159.00	1,784	2,676.00
Series D—Special Non- Resident County	3.00	65	195.00		
Total		15,242	\$39,085.00	6,112	\$14,809.00

Hunting Licenses:

Series I—Resident County	\$1.00	29,486	\$29,486.00	29,718	\$29,718.00
Series J—Resident County, Other than Home	3.00	455	1,365.00	377	1,131.00
Series K—Resident State	5.00	12,367	61,835.00	13,845	69,225.00
Series L—Non-Resident	25.00	147	3,675.00	113	2,825.00
Series M—Non-Resident 10 Day Trip	10.00	373	3,730.00	224	2,240.00
Series M-1—Non-Resident 3,000 Acre Owner	10.00	15	150.00	11	110.00
Total		42,843	\$100,241.00	44,288	\$105,249.00

	Price	Number Issued	Amount	Number Issued	Amount
Trapping Licenses:					
Series N—Resident	\$3.00	1,438	\$ 4,314.00	1,322	\$ 3,966.00
Series O—Resident Other than Home County	10.00	51	510.00	26	260.00
Series P—Resident State	25.00	7	175.00	11	275.00
Series O—Non-Resid. County	25.00	3	75.00	1	25.00
Total		1,499	\$ 5,074.00	1,360	\$ 4,526.00

Total Sales by County Judges	59,584	\$144,460.00	51,760	\$124,584.00
------------------------------	--------	--------------	--------	--------------

Commercial Licenses:

	June 30, 1936	December 31, 1936
Retail Fish Dealers	\$1,685.00	\$ 775.00
Wholesale Fish Dealer	1,100.00	600.00
Commercial Boat	280.30	145.00
Boat for Hire	1,120.50	741.00
Wholesale Fur Dealer & Agent	1,205.00	1,220.00
Local Fur Dealer	110.00	120.00
Game Farm License	70.00	45.00
Guide License	50.00	120.00
Grand Total		\$150,020.80
		\$128,350.50



"End of a Perfect Day"

VESTED RIGHTS BASIS OF STATE GAME LEGISLATION

In the United States the title to wildlife rests in the States, each in its respective area. It was derived, it was said, from those inherent rights of the Thirteen Colonies to which they laid claim when they won their independence from England. Of greater moment, perhaps, is that theory which lies back of our Federal System of Government which allows to the National Government only such powers as have been delegated by the States through the Constitution of the United States, and reserves to the States all powers not expressly forbidden them by the Constitution. Having vested rights to wildlife a State has powers to regulate and control the taking of wildlife within its legal bounds, irrespective of the land upon which it is found. This right of ownership and police power for the protection of animal life, as well as the authority over birds, animals and fish legally killed within its confines, and the consequent power to follow such property into whatever hands it may pass, has been affirmed by the Supreme Court of States and by the United States Supreme Court. It is upon these vested rights that the regulations for taking wildlife, the requirement of license for taking, the fixing of cost of license, the regulation of bag and season, the manner of taking and the disposition of that which is taken, is exercised by Florida.

The specious argument that game belongs to the land and land belongs to the owner, therefore game belongs to the owner of the land, has no foundation in fact in America.

For our purpose it is enough that we know that the title to wild life is vested in the State: that courts uphold the right

of a State to regulate the taking and disposition of wildlife within its respective bounds, (other than of migratory wildlife), irrespective of the ownership of the land upon which it is found and that upon this right is based the right of a State to require the purchase of a license for taking game within its area.

LICENSE FOR TAKING OR FOR TRAFFICKING IN FLORIDA WILDLIFE

The requirement that one purchase a license before taking game, fish or fur-bearing animals in Florida differs from all other taxes levied by the State in that it is a price paid for the privilege to take, (within limit of season and bag) what belongs to the people as a whole; or, in case of licenses sold for fish dealers, guides, boats-for-hire, trappers, fur-dealers, it is a price paid for the privilege to take or traffic in a commodity that belongs to the people as a whole, or to operate in a field that involves the taking of such a commodity.

No one pays such a tax except the man who wishes to purchase the privilege to take or deal in what belongs to all. Except in those cases where one is exempt from purchase. It is only by purchase of this privilege that his action becomes legal. Residents of Florida of 65 years of age and children under 15 years of age are exempt from purchasing hunting, fishing and trapping licenses.

What a Hunting License Provides

Nowhere, perhaps, is so much offered for so small cost as is offered in Florida to those buying a hunting license. The hunting, while not up to that of two decades ago, is good. To the man or child exempt from hunting license, or to the purchaser of a resident-hunting license at \$1.00; a County-other-than-that-of-resident at \$3.00; a State-resident at \$5.00; Non-resident-ten consecutive days, for \$10.00; Non-resident-special County (owning and paying taxes on 3,000 acres of land within the County) at \$10.00; a non-resident State at \$25.00; Florida places a season's limit on game taken (day bag limits at all times to be observed) of the following: buck deer, 2; wild turkey, 5; quail, 200; mourning doves, 200; squirrel, 200; ducks, 200; geese, 200; or any other species of game. A season's bag of 200 of all species combined (the present limit on deer and turkey to be observed or reduced) would be liberal, and a far safer policy with respect to Florida's future supply of game. Revenue from hunting licenses is not sufficient to provide researches needed in wildlife management and funds for re-stocking, needed to supplement native seed stock if good hunting is to be maintained.

Game Census

A census of game taken from season to season is needed. The law requires that such be made through the filing with county judges by applicants for hunting licenses, (at the time application for license is made) of the bag taken in the previous season. The law provides that a person failing to make such a report shall be denied license. The law for a number of seasons had been "honored in the breach." After the close of the 1935-36 seasons a call was made upon County Judges for such a report for persons purchasing licenses through their respective officers. Forty-eight counties responded.

Returns showed that those purchasing licenses for 1935-36 and reporting for the previous year had killed 463,113 quail; 270,174 doves; 131,358 squirrels; 44,134 ducks; 229 geese; 2,516 wild turkey; 1,761 deer. A conservative estimate of game killed during the season for which the report was made, it is believed, would be double the amount. The value would be not less than \$2,000,000. Those who purchased hunting licenses during the year for which returns were made paid to the State \$94,445.00. From the sum paid, protection and restocking of game, and in part fish, had to be provided.

Bag Limits and Seasons

The matter of over-liberal bag limits and long open seasons on game demand consideration if Florida is to retain the good hunting for which the State has been noted. Closely linked with this is the need for a better understanding of good practices in farming areas on the one hand, of wildlife needs in the forests on the other, and the application of approved methods in the handling of both, if Florida's wildlife resources are not to be further needlessly depleted. These will be more fully discussed in the paragraph devoted to "Rebuilding Wildlife."

FLORIDA'S GAME AND FUR BEARING ANIMALS

Florida's Game Laws list as game animals but two species—deer and squirrel. To sportsmen the deer found in Florida are commonly known as the "White-Tail" or "Virginia White-Tail." Scientists recognize among the Florida deer the three sub-species, the Louisianian, the Floridian and the Island Deer of the Florida Keys. Interesting biologically because characteristic of Florida wildlife, Florida should see that these species are not lost or strains mixed. Squirrel in Florida classed as game are the Fox Squirrel, ranging in color from grey, sometimes tinged with clay color, to black and the Florida Grey Squirrel.

A Comparison

Florida law provides for a season on deer, except where modified by local law, of 42 days, November 10th, to December 31st, a daily bag limit of one (buck only) and a season's bag of two. Those interested in preserving deer in numbers in Florida might be interested in comparing Florida seasons and bags with those of other States. There are 12 States that show no open season on deer. Nine of these evidently have lost their supply since they list no deer. 26 States have a shorter, much shorter season than does Florida. Of this number Missouri with the boasted hunting of the Ozarks has but 3 open days on deer, and needless to add, a season's bag limit of one buck, and that one must have 4 or more points to one antler. The State of Pennsylvania, bare of deer some thirty years ago, now boasting the greatest supply of deer found in any one State in America, added 2 days to the hunting season on deer for 1936-37, giving a season of 12 days. The season's bag is one buck with two or more points to one antler. Minnesota, land of forests dotted over with 10,000 lakes offers deer hunting for a season of 10 days in alternate years. Non-residents pay \$50.25 for a big game license, and \$25.00 for the privilege of hunting small game in Minnesota. Bag limit on deer is one a season. Mississippi, latest of the States to establish a Game Commission, offers hunting on deer for 10 days a season, bucks only, season's bag limit of one, non-resident license \$25.25, and is open in 22 counties only, the remainder of the counties being closed to deer hunting. Incidentally



Breaking Camp in the Everglades

Mississippi is closed on bear and allows the killing of but one turkey, and that a gobbler a season. Many of the States, boasting of the long seasons, have had to close a number of counties to deer hunting. Exceptions to this are Louisiana and Alabama.

Deer Problem in Florida

While these matters are of general interest, Florida's concern is with the deer problem in Florida. There is no one familiar with deer hunting in Florida for the past two decades but knows that there has been a marked decrease in deer in Florida in that period of time. This is attributable to several facts. Good roads have opened up the once natural sanctuaries of wildlife and the almost universal possession of cars has brought them within easy access of all who wish to hunt. The building of truck trails and fire lanes into the heart of the deep woods by the Forestry Service has completed the job. Where in the past a camp hunt was an event of the hunting season for a favored few among sportsmen, they are week-end events for the many. A law limiting camp hunts to one a season and requiring that notice be given the local Conservation Officer when and where this would be taken would facilitate conservation of wildlife in such areas, particularly the conservation of deer and turkey. Another factor in the reduction of the number of deer is the illegal killing of the doe deer. Due to climatic conditions deer breed early in Florida. For that reason, and because upon the supply of doe deer depends the future of deer in Florida, a law has been upon Florida statute books for a number of years forbidding the killing of doe deer.

Enforcement and observance of this law is better than in past years but not perfect. The number of arrests for this offense increased in the season just closed over the seasons previous. The Legislature of 1937 will be asked to enact a statute requiring the marks identifying sex of a deer shall be retained upon the carcass for inspection.

A Menace to Deer

Another factor menaces deer in the lower part of the peninsula. In highly localized areas in this section the work of tick eradication has not been completed. Representatives of the State Live Stock Sanitary Board and the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry directing the work, claim that failure to eradicate the tick is due to infestation of deer in these restricted areas which are used in common by deer and cattle. The vegetation here, it is claimed, is too dense to make it possible to get the cattle out for systematic dipping or to run

the cattle through the area regularly and let them gather up the ticks, the cattle being a preferred "host" by the tick.

That deer carry the Texas fever tick in the areas has been shown by examination of carcasses of deer killed in the two State Breeding Grounds opened by the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish for the killing of deer, November 20th to December 31st, 1936, in compliance with the urgent request of the State and Federal agencies directing the tick eradication. Examination of the carcasses made by a representative of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology showed that approximately 40% of the deer killed in these areas were carrying the pest, some having but a slight infestation, others showing a heavy infestation. Sixty per cent of the carcasses were tick free.



"Hope of the Future"

If deer should by chance be eliminated from these areas it would mean a drastic reduction in breeding stock in the peninsular part of Florida. This emphasizes again the need for strict enforcement and observation of the law forbidding the killing of doe deer; the need for passage of the law requiring hunters to leave upon the carcass marks of sex for identification; possibly the enactment of a law that would prohibit

the hunting of deer with dogs; limiting the kill to bucks with pronged antlers, and the reduction in length of season and bag limit, a measure other States have found necessary.

Such measures as these which Florida can provide from within, rather than a chance of "restocking" with imported stock is the only method that can be depended upon. Restocking, while theoretically plausible, is but little more than a theory. Seed stock is not to be had in the market except in most limited numbers and at prohibitive prices. No county in Florida is so well stocked with deer as to be willing to restock a depleted area in some other county. "Safety of breeding stock first" is the only sure way out. What measures the Legislature will provide for the better protection of deer cannot be forecast.

Closed Season Needed on Fox Squirrel

Though Florida has two species of squirrel, the grey squirrel and the fox squirrel, only the grey are numerous. For this reason a closed season on Florida Fox Squirrel was declared in 1927 expiring in November 20, 1932. This should be renewed.

STATUS OF GAME BIRDS IN FLORIDA

Florida's three principal native game birds are bobwhite quail, wild turkey and mourning dove. The number of the last named is greatly augmented each season by the migrants that come down each winter from colder regions lying north of Florida. The principal migratory game birds are ducks, wild geese and Wilsons snipe. Coot are shot to some extent since the Federal Government placed them on the "game bird" list, though nowhere in Florida are they esteemed as more than a target. Florida is fortunate in yet having a fair supply of breeding stock of native game birds, which, assuming that the carrying capacity of the land (cover and feed) is yet sufficient, reduces the problem of maintaining a full supply of these birds to one of conservative shooting or surcease from shooting, when and where needed.

Favorite among the game birds of the State with Florida sportsmen is the bobwhite quail which, with the exception of a restricted area in the far southwestern part of the peninsula and reaching up to near the southern shore of Lake Okeechobee, where overflowed lands make nesting and feed uncertain, nests throughout the State. The history of bobwhite in Florida, dating back to the time of the development of farms and plantations planted to grain and other food crops, showed, as in other States, an increase in the quail population coincident

to the increase in the acreage in farm lands. Under continued and heavy shooting quail are not as abundant as formerly, though Florida yet offers some of the best to be found in any State. The breeding season of 1936 was generally favorable over the State (heavy rains and flooded areas in Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties late in the season, with a heavy loss of game offering the exception* and average shooting for the 1936-37 season, with sufficient brood stock for the 1937 season resulted. There is a growing sentiment among sportsmen that favors a shortened season on bobwhite in many parts of Florida. This has found expression in local laws restricting hunting on certain days during the season in Marion and Citrus Counties.

Wild Turkey

No species of game bird so generally distributed over the continent as the wild turkey has taken heavier loss. Once found in all sections, and within the bounds of nearly all States, today there are but fourteen of the forty-eight states that have the wild turkey left. Some of these are closed to turkey shooting; most of them, under a short season, limit bags to one or two birds a season; some further restrict these bags to gobblers. Florida has been fortunate in retaining a fair supply of this choice bird, and in holding the true bronze species; but Florida today stands at the cross roads in-so-far as the supply of wild turkey is concerned. No species of game in the State, unless it has been deer, has suffered as heavy loss through the opening up of natural wildlife sanctuaries by the building of good roads, and in later years the building of fire lanes and truck trails. These have brought within easy gun range those remote hammocks and swamps and low-lying swampy areas in pine land and prairie in which these birds and deer found refuge; where they bred and reared their young.

The State as yet has made no provision for additional protection by reduction in open season and bag limit to overcome this additional hazard. Florida must choose, and choose now, between a quick rebuilding, by giving the hardy seed stock that yet remains adequate protection to permit it to rebuild, or by introduction in numbers of imported stock to produce a mixed strain to take the place of the choice bronze of the Florida woods. What is done in the next few years in Florida will write the future of the Florida Wild Turkey.

Doves

The abundance of weed seeds throughout the State supplemented by grain and peanut fields in Florida yield abundant feed for the Carolina or Mourning dove which breeds through-

out the State, over a period that has recorded fledgling as early as April 10th (near Pensacola) and as late as October 16th (at Tallahassee). The supply of doves in Florida is largely increased during winter months by migrants from Northern States. Until the last two hunting seasons there seemed to be no decrease in their numbers. The decrease noted throughout the country in the last two years, however, has registered here, though they are yet found in all parts of Florida. The Federal Regulations of 1935-36, which opened a large part of Florida for dove shooting two months in advance of the regular hunting season in the State jeopardized all game in the area affected. Causing much confusion and brought a strong protest from the Commission and from sportsmen's clubs over the State, the regulation was abated after ten days operation. Prior to the fixing by the Federal Government of the dove season for 1936-37, Florida was permitted to submit recommendations respecting the season and confusion was avoided.

WILD DUCKS AND GEESE

The supply of wild ducks and geese in Florida, (with the exception of the nesting wood duck and the few blue-winged teal that nest in the State and the native Florida duck, a true Mallard) have reflected the heavy loss in the continental supply that has come in the past two decades. Ducks breeding in Florida, under closed seasons and restricted shooting have shown an increase, particularly the wood duck.

The St. Marks Refuge for Migratory Birds, 36,000 acres located in the heart of the goose shooting grounds in Florida has afforded needed protection for these birds which come in numbers to winter there.

Without discussing reasons that lie back of the terrible decline in the continental supply of ducks and geese, Florida recognizes that man's part in taking them as game is the only factor responsible for the decline over which man has absolute control. Florida reduced the day bag limit on ducks from 25 to 15 and prohibited the shooting of ducks over baited areas many years prior to reduction in bag limit and the stopping of shooting over baited areas by the Federal Government. Florida sportsmen today, coming to look with increased favor upon the suggestion of a closed season on ducks, and the many who do not hunt, interested in the saving of the birds, are ready to support a Federal Regulation providing a closed season on ducks and geese.

Better Protection for Birds and Mammals

For the better protection needed by birds and mammals if this feature of Florida's wildlife is to be maintained in any-

thing like its abundance of two decades ago, there must be a reduction in the numbers annually taken, restocking must be speeded up as rapidly as finances will permit. Those sufficiently interested in conservation to place active work back of it will present to the Legislature of 1937 a suggested program to secure this.

FUR BEARING ANIMALS

Florida law lists as fur-bearing animals the raccoon, muskrat, mink, otter, beaver, civet cat, skunk, red and grey fox, bear, panther and opossum. The season for taking fur-bearing animals in Florida is December 1st to March 1st. No protection of bag limit on fur-bearing animals is fixed, the only protection given other than that found in breeding grounds, being that of license required, season, and the regulation of method of taking.

The Bear

The bear has disappeared from many parts of Florida where it was once found. This, in part, is due to the change of use of land in the area; in part, because on an often unfounded charge, that the bear was troubling live stock, bear have been killed. Many States have added greatly to the interest in the life of the woods by protecting their bear. Florida might do this with profit.

Number Trappers Decline as Fur-Bearers Decrease

The drop in the number of trappers licensed in Florida during the past ten years—from 7,381 sold in 1927 to 1,560 for the season of 1935-36—is highly significant. It indicates, and correctly so, that there has been a great decrease in the number of fur-bearers over that period of time. The following letter from a licensed fur buyer of Clay County written when submitting his report of pelts bought during the current season is thought provoking:

"Please let me make a suggestion. I think the trapping season too long. December 1st to February 1st would be better for all concerned.

1. During February, the furs become un-prime and greatly reduced in value.
2. Most females caught in February are full of young and destroyed.

I believe two months would be more profitable to all concerned than the three months.

Respectfully submitted."



This fellow asks your protection. He deserves it.

Revenue to State Decreases

In 1927-28 revenue to the State from trapping and fur dealers' licenses was \$40,890.00; in 1935-36 it was \$6,389.00. To maintain the full wildlife picture in Florida, as well as for economic reasons, fur-bearers should be saved. Once lost, these species of animals will be irreplaceable. There is no breeding stock for purchase.

Muskra^ts

The Commission has made some investigations during the year just closed regarding the adaptability to Florida of the muskrat of commerce (*Ondatra zibethica*) as distinguished from the round-tailed muskrat native to the Florida Everglades. The fact that many of the grasses upon which the flat-tailed muskrat feeds in Louisiana and other States are found in Florida, and that climatic conditions in Louisiana and Florida are, in many respects, similar, suggests that it would be possible to establish the muskrat in this State. Though research as to the extent of areas in which plants adapted as feed for these mammals, exists in Florida would add needed information, the outlook was sufficiency promising to lead the Commission to secure a few of these fur-bearers from Louisiana

Conservation Officers' Training School



Conservation Officers' Training School



Camp Roosevelt. March 15, 16, 1937



Camp Roosevelt, March 8, 9, 1937



and release them. If they thrive this will be further developed to help the trapping industry of the State.

The Alligator

Not among the "fur-bearers" but hunted for its hide and for the "souvenir trade" is the Florida alligator. The traffic in these, once a big item in trade, is negligible. Public opinion is demanding a closed season on all traffic in the alligator, which possesses not only considerable trade value but is an added value as an attraction in Florida waters where the tropical setting without the alligator loses an interesting feature if the "gator" is lost.

Rebuilding Wildlife

Research tends to show that, if the required breeding stock is on hand, the limiting factors in the supply of wildlife, that may reasonably be expected on an area, are sufficient and suitable cover and feed. Once this fact is fully grasped, it will simplify the plan for rebuilding the supply of wildlife in Florida. Emphasis will fall upon development of good cover and an abundance of feed rather than upon many other practices that have been tried out in years past, such as over-stocking on lands already sufficiently stocked, exhaustive predator campaigns, and similar practices, the wisdom of which the Research Committee of the Wildlife Institute has recently challenged. Those leading the movement of wildlife conservation and rebuilding stress the importance of the cover and feed program.

Wildlife and the Soil Conservation Program

At no time has there been such an opportunity to increase "carrying capacity" of agricultural lands as there is today. This rare chance comes through the development of the Soil Conservation Program of the Federal Government. Lands, thousands of acres of lands, that are being retired from cultivation under this program are being planted to soil building crops such as lespedeza, beggar weed, cowpeas and other legumes. These afford the best of feed for upland game birds, particularly for that favorite of the sportsman, the bobwhite quail. Were these rebuilt lands, where needed, restocked with quail from the State Breeding Grounds and protected until the game population became abundant, it would be a long step forward in rebuilding wildlife in Florida. Incidentally it would enhance the value of every farm where bobwhite was brought back in numbers. Increased values would be found in the value of this bird as an insect destroyer on the farm, of the increased interest that he would lend to life on the farm

and the economic value of the increased game. Where these lands are fenced, the possibility of leasing shooting privileges is open to the farmer. In lands where the farmer would undertake to cooperate with the State in keeping such lands open to public hunting (limited to a safe margin) it might be possible to secure some reduction of taxes on such lands, in line with abatements allowed on timber lands that are being rebuilt.

Wildlife and the Forestry Program

Those interested in maintaining Florida's wildlife resources realize that the reforestation program holds much that will improve the wildlife habitat, and some features that lessen its value. In the first category would fall the replanting of forests; in the second, the cutting of fire lanes and wagon trails into the heart of natural wildlife sanctuaries, making these more readily accessible to the hunter, the poacher. Should the policy of leasing of grazing privileges to cattle owners, sometimes proposed, become general, the extermination of wildlife on these lands, such as has followed the practice in the West, would be inevitable. The carrying capacity of the land will not support both in numbers. No one who knows the values to Florida of an abundant wildlife, values that in this State where thousands of visitors come each year attracted by life in the open, and where the good hunting, picturesque plumage birds, good fishing and other sports of the open spaces, stack high when measured by the dollar yard stick, would wish to see the barren "game lands" of the West reproduced here. Before policies are determined every phase of the program needs careful consideration with a view to equitable adjustment.

STATE BREEDING GROUNDS

Florida has long since recognized the need for wildlife breeding grounds. The fast development of the State, the opening up of areas once far distant from the lines of general travel has increased the need for these if wildlife is to be preserved. The limited finances available for conservation of wildlife in Florida, the extensive area to be served made the purchase or leasing of lands for breeding grounds and refuges impractical. In 1927 the State Legislature authorized the closing of selected areas by Executive Order to the taking of wildlife. At the present time Florida has 65 such breeding grounds. Fourteen of these have been established during the eighteen months covered by this report. These are supplemented by the Federal Preserves in the Ocala Forest Preserve, 100,000 acres, closed by Legislative Act; the St. Marks Migra-

tory Bird Refuge, 36,000 acres, purchased by the Federal Government and a number of smaller refuges owned by the Federal Government for the protection of migratory plumage birds. State Breeding Grounds closed by legislative action number sixteen.

These wildlife preserves not only prove an effectual means of preserving seed stock of game birds and animals, but of other mammals and non-game birds. In many of them the rare plumage birds, the beautiful egrets, herons of differing species, the picturesque water turkey, and the pelican and the rare and beautiful roseate spoonbill winter or nest here.

In all parts of Florida, in woodland, swamp and about the streets and gardens of towns and cities the myriads of perching birds reasonably safe from sling-shot and gun, sing while they carry on their ceaseless warfare against the insect pests of man and crops. To these are added the hundreds of shore birds that bring to the miles of Florida beaches a characteristic feature of constant interest.

Breeding grounds, preserves, city sanctuaries, mean the preservation of this interesting and valuable feature of wildlife.

RESTOCKING

Restocking of game in Florida has been carried on by taking from State Breeding Grounds surplus quail and transferring them to depleted areas in those counties from which the birds are taken. This, in so far as Florida is concerned, is the most efficient method of restocking this choice bird. The rearing of birds in the breeding grounds under natural conditions, and without penning them, gives not only native stock adapted to conditions in the open, but gives birds at a minimum cost of warden service for the protection of the area. It is possible and highly desirable for each county in Florida to have within its bounds breeding ground created by order of the States Chief Executive.

During 1936 and up to the time in 1937 when this report was put on the presses, Florida had taken from State Breeding Grounds and distributed to depleted areas 4,550 bobwhite quail.

Over the same period of time, the Commission had purchased and distributed 1,200 quail, 301 turkeys from domestic bronze crossed with wild stock and 418 wild guineas from Cuba.

GAME FISH OF FRESH AND BRACKISH WATERS

Florida's more than 30,000 lakes and overlacing network of clear streams not only provide excellent crappie, bream, perch and pickerel fishing, but they afford the world's greatest black bass fishing grounds.

The fishing of the "inland angler" for fresh water species, is supplemented by the fishing in coastal waters, bays and bayous, canals and far upstream for species of fish which the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries has classified as "Game Fish of the Brackish Waters." Among these are channel bass or redfish, snook or roballo, tarpon and, on limited waters, striped bass or rock fish, equally at home in outside and inside waters; and, when fished for in streams and canals, to be legally taken only by those licensed to fish in fresh waters of the State.

Fishing License

The cost for a resident State fishing license is \$2.00; non-resident State, \$5.00; non-resident, 3-day trip, \$1.50. Residents of a county are exempt from buying license to fish in the waters of the county of residence and in the border waters of the county. These exemptions made help cut revenue below that needed for operation of fish hatcheries and to pay the



Spillway, Winter Haven Hatchery—Superintendent's House in Rear

proportionate cost for conservation officers service for guarding the fish in lakes and streams.

Supply vs. Demand

With continuous and widespread propaganda from within and without the State, stressing the values of outdoor life, the fine fishing found in Florida waters, the recreation for tourists from other States, the promoted fishing contests, the soul-quieting and health-building values of angling, there has been a constant increase in the numbers who go to Florida waters to find these promised returns. Florida's problem is that of maintaining supply for the increasing demands of sport fishing. It is an ever-present, many sided problem. Hand in hand with this increased fishing is the desire, the tendency, to make it all "Free," to be taken without the cost of license, to be taken without limit. Hence, Florida maintains an open fishing season throughout the year in these waters, except in those far seeing counties that avail themselves of a provision of the law which permits them to secure for the protection of their fresh water fishing a closed season during a part of the spawning season. Scarcely more than a dozen counties avail themselves of this provision. Other protection provided is a very liberal bag limit on all species, a limit on possession and regulations for transportation and sale, and the Black Bass Law. In 1935 black bass were taken from the list of species that might be sold in Florida or shipped from the State to be sold, a far reaching measure for the conservation of this choice game fish.

Significance of Black Bass Law of 1935

When the Florida Legislature of 1935 passed the Black Bass Law it stopped the sale to the wholesaler at a few cents a pound of a fish easily worth a dollar a pound to the people of Florida. The passage of the Black Bass Law by the Legislature wrote "For Angler's Only" above every rendezvous in Florida's 30,000 lakes and numerous streams, of that premier game fish of which Henshaw wrote, "Inch for inch and pound for pound the gamest fish that swims." It made him safe for all time, unless, indeed, his fighting spirit up he strikes the tantalizing lure deftly placed under some nearby lilly-pad or into his deep retreat below the jutting bank of lake or stream—strikes, and as he sometimes does, loses in his game fight. It meant the writing of the name of Florida in the column of thirty-eight States and the District of Columbia that have made it illegal to sell Black Bass regardless of where taken. It meant nation-wide advertising of the best kind for Florida. It meant the underwriting of the future of sport-fishing



"For Anglers Only"

in lake and stream for boys and girls in Florida, who crowd hard upon the heels of the old-timers of today. It pledged faith with the future that here was one attraction of Florida's great outdoors, one source of wholesome recreation, which the State had determined should never grow less. It meant that the Legislature of Florida had written upon the statute books of the State one of its greatest conservation laws.

Bass of Lake Okeechobee

When the Legislature of 1935 enacted the Black Bass Bill, which prohibited the sale, barter, exchange or the shipment into or out of the State for sale, of black bass, it repealed insofar as black bass were concerned, the clause of the Acts of 1925 which declared the waters of Lake Okeechobee to be salt, returning black bass in Lake Okeechobee to the protection afforded by laws regulating the taking of fish from the fresh waters of the State.



Winter Haven Hatchery Delivery Truck Loaded at "Fingerling Corral" and Ready to Go

FISH HATCHERIES

When the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish entered upon its work it found three fresh water fish hatcheries in operation. The oldest and largest was at Welaka on the St. Johns River, established in 1925; the second at Winter Haven, established in 1929; the third at Wewahitchka begun in 1933 had not been completed. The plant at Welaka represented an investment on the part of the State over a period of 10 years, of \$151,374.93, inclusive of cost of operation, and an investment of federal funds (FERA, CWA, WPA) somewhat in excess of \$200,000.00, during 1933-35.

Welaka Hatchery Leased

The Welaka Hatchery, through the large investment of federal money, had been expanded to provide an electrically equipped quail farm, a small but well built aquarium, a modern shad hatchery and a deer park. The cost of operation exceeded any possible expenditure from the State Game Fund, which is derived from sale of hunting, fishing, trapping, guide and boats for hire licenses, supplemented by a small fund paid for services of officers in cases where arrests result in conviction. The total amount of the cost of operation was approximately \$16,000.00 a year. The problem of completing and operating these hatcheries was among those that pressed for immediate attention when the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish took over the work and found in the State Game Fund \$29,000.00 upon which to operate and no appreciable increase in sight until December.

Negotiations for the leasing of the Welaka Hatchery and Game Farm to the Federal Government (initiated before the Commission became responsible for the operation of the property) were looked upon with favor. In the meeting held at Orlando, August 12th, 1935, Messers Leffleman, Denham and State Senator Pannil representatives of the Federal Rehabilitation Administration, appeared before the Commission, bringing with them a proposed lease for the plan. Mr. Leffleman stated that fish would be hatched and held until of legal minimum length and released, the major portion to Florida waters on federally owned lands in the State; and birds from the quail hatchery would be largely used on federally owned lands in Florida for restocking purposes. The lease as it was presented was signed by the Commission.

It was not until early in December that the Welaka Hatchery and Game Farm was finally taken over by the Federal Government. Up to that date cost of operation, which had been greatly reduced, was paid by the State from the State Game



Winter Haven Black Bass Brood Lake

Fund. Final disposition of this matter will be made by the 1937 Legislature when Florida will be asked to deed the Welaka Fish Hatchery and Game Farm to the Federal Government.

Winter Haven Hatchery

The Winter Haven Hatchery which has been a consistent producer since its completion in 1929, and at minimum cost, completed during summer months 1935 distribution of fingerling bass for the season. 286,500 were released in the following Florida Counties:

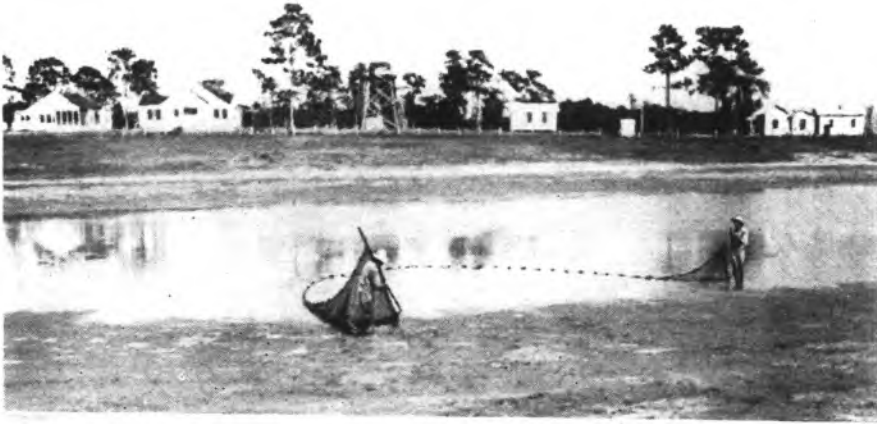
Alachua	25,000	Hillsboro	26,000
Marion	12,000	Palm Beach	8,000
Manatee	13,000	Flagler	15,000
Orange	22,000	Highlands	10,000
Polk	59,000	Lake	52,500
Citrus	29,000	Bradford	15,000

The brood lake at the hatchery was conditioned for reception of brood stock for the following season and was stocked during winter months with 3,000 brood bass. The output for 1936 was close to a million. The cost of operation of this hatchery July 1st, 1935 to June 30th, 1936, was \$3,769.20. By December 31st, 1936, the Winter Haven hatchery had been conditioned and stocked with 2,900 brood bass for 1937 production.

Wewahatchka Fish Hatchery

The Wewahatchka Fish Hatchery begun in 1933 was completed in 1936. The citizens of Gulf County, in which the hatchery is located are loyal in their support of this enter-

WEWAHITCHKA HATCHERY



1. Taking Fingerling. 2. Brood Lake. 3. Ready to Deliver

prise. They made it the one county-wide project requested from the Works Progress Administration. The cost of erecting the plant was borne by this federal agency, the lands involved, and some buildings on the grounds being offered as an offset. The property has been deeded to the State. Some production was obtained from Wewahitchka in 1935 and some in 1936, totalling a possible 200,000 fingerling bass. The hatchery is now complete and maximum production is to be expected from this plant.

**DISTRIBUTION BY DISTRICTS AND COUNTIES FROM
WINTER HAVEN AND WEWAHITCHKA HATCHERIES
DURING 1936**

Total by Districts

First District	372,100
Second District	243,000
Third District	89,200
Fourth District	14,000
Fifth District	315,000
Total	1,033,300

1936

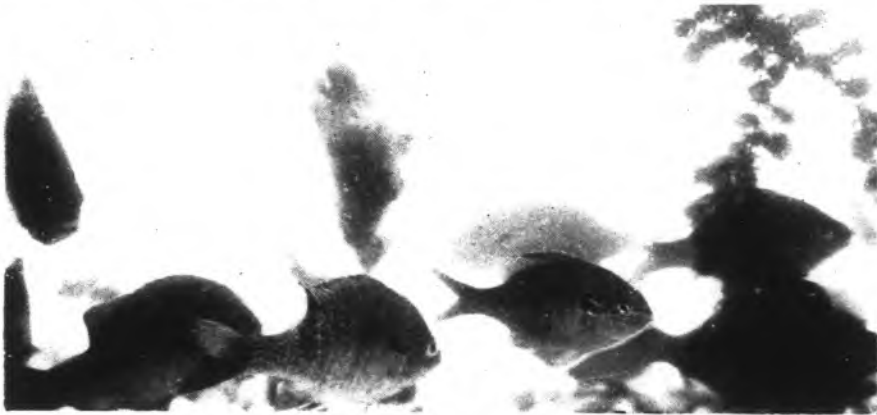
Total by Counties

**FISH DELIVERED FROM
WINTER HAVEN AND WEWAHITCHKA HATCHERIES**

Alachua	11,000	Jackson	3,000
Baker	19,000	Jefferson	12,000
Bay	6,000	Lake	68,500
Bradford	77,000	Leon	16,200
Broward	8,000	Levy	13,500
Citrus	56,000	Manatee	7,000
Clay	42,000	Marion	19,000
Columbia	11,000	Orange	93,500
DeSoto	100	Osceola	12,000
Duval	23,000	Palm Beach	6,000
Escambia	7,000	Pasco	14,000
Flagler	14,000	Pinellas	28,000
Gadsden	18,000	Polk	205,000
Gulf	38,200	Putnam	18,000
Hamilton	30,500	Seminole	26,000
Hardee	11,000	Suwannee	4,000
Hernando	12,000	Volusia	8,000
Highlands	12,000	Wakulla	800
Hillsborough	83,000		
		Total	1,033,300

Seining of Lakes for Rough Fish and to Reduce Sunfish Other Than Bass

The fact that waters, like land, has a limited carrying capacity for life, dependent upon sanitation, food and cover, led to a series of experiments in reducing, by seining, in certain waters of the State, rough fish and competing species of sunfish, such as bream, perch, to improve conditions in these waters for black bass. This has been carried on in Florida for a period of years. Results have hardly seemed to justify continuance of this policy. In 1936 it was ordered stopped in most of the lakes in which it has been tried.



Florida "Shell-Crackers"

Striped Bass

The possibility of developing striped bass in Florida waters in sufficient numbers to make them of interest to more than a few anglers is worthy of consideration. Striped Bass or Rock Fish, (*Morone lineatus*), a species of game fish found in greatly restricted areas on the upper East Coast and more abundantly on the Gulf Coast from the mouth of the St. Marks River west are prized by those who know their haunts. The present a possibility for further propagation.

Their appearance in numbers below the falls at the power dam on the Ocklocknee River in recent times, and the excellent sport which they afford the angler, has lead the Commission to plan some investigations into the possibility of propagation without detriment to other well established game species of fish. It is a well known fact that the "Striper" now affording one of California's chief game species of fish were transplanted from the East. Prized there and in North Carolina both for commerce and sport, they are adapted to artificial hatching in shad jars, from which they emerge in 36 hours in

water 70 degrees F. The size of the roe found in the striped bass, a fish classed as one of the largest and one of the best of American fresh water, spiny rayed fishes, makes the yield of eggs from a single fish large. That Striped bass are native in the waters where found suggests the feasibility of further propagation.

Stream Pollution

While in some sections the drainage of city sewerage and the dump from phosphate mines is detrimental to fish and has created a problem that should be remedied if possible, Florida's problem of stream and lake pollution is largely one of



Black Bass—From a Florida Stream

prevention. With the prospect for immediate erection of manufacturing plants in different sections of the State, consideration should be given the establishment of a sound policy that will guard the rights of Florida in wildlife resources.

The Problem

Though Florida's fresh-water fishing far surpasses what may be found in many other sections, and its abundance and easy access to all bring many to Florida to enjoy this sport, none who fished it two decades ago will claim that it is as good as was that short period back. Florida's problem is to bring it back to its original abundance. Sufficient brood stock, sanitary waters, a proper habitat with abundant food, are the needed factors for the successful solution of the problem.

Florida has the brood stock; the pollution problem is not yet acute in Florida's lakes and streams, and everywhere food to support the desired fish population seems abundant. The problem then resolves itself into one of management. Summarized, the following is offered as the basis for the needed program:

1. A state-wide law providing for a closed season during spawning time, when, undisturbed, fish may spawn, defend their young until ready to push them out on their own. This will be sought from the Legislature.
2. Retaining of fish in lakes and streams until large enough to have spawned at least one time before being taken. Strict observance and enforcement of the law providing a minimum legal length at which the different species may be taken.
3. Maintenance of established hatcheries.
4. Sufficient revenue from sport fishing in Florida to maintain hatcheries and provide for proportionate part of cost of warden service for protecting lakes and streams.
5. Prevention of pollution of streams and lakes, correction where possible to secure this.
6. Reduction in bag limits on all species of fresh water fish.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Five Chief Conservation Officers, one in each of the Five Congressional Districts, stand as sub-heads of the law enforcement divisions of the work. The men selected for these positions when the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish was organized were men who had previous experience as Conservation Officers of Florida. Three of the five had been in the service for eight years or more, three were District Offi-

cers under the State Board of Conservation. Two of these are no longer in the service.

Florida has placed the entire enforcement division in uniforms. This has proven a wise move. The uniform commands respect.

Men with knowledge of wildlife, its habitat, the ways of the woods and of those who go into the woods to hunt and who are fearless, have been chosen. While instructed to enforce the law without fear or favor, these men are depended upon to secure law enforcement, as far as possible, without resort to the courts. When cases must be taken to court they are instructed to leave nothing undone to secure a vigorous prosecution. Under the provision of the Commission that each District Officer should recommend for employment or removal the county officers who would work under them, it has been possible to build a strong, unified division of law enforcement in each District, the whole organization operating directly under the Commission.*

The record for the period covered by this report, July 1st, 1935, to December 31st, 1936, shows: Arrests 764; Convictions 517; Acquittals 75; Pending 172. Cooperation of Courts in the matter of prosecuting law violators has been the best that has ever been secured.

To increase the efficiency of the force, the Commission has arranged for the holding of two officers training schools, to be held under the auspices of the University of Florida at Camp Roosevelt.

EDUCATION

Knowledge lies back of well directed action. It usually wins support for worthy programs. These facts have led States to make provision in conservation programs for educational work.

Florida keeps step with her Sister States in this matter. The report follows:

1. Compilation of Law

The first work undertaken after the Commission began operations was checking measures enacted by the 1935 session of the Legislature against those in effect and the compilation of the Game Laws of the State, for which there was a pressing need. These laws were summarized for convenience of those whom they affected and the summary printed in leaflet form, later to be followed by a second summary giving only the hunting laws.

2. Magazine

A well illustrated monthly magazine "Outdoor Florida" was edited through 1936, by this division of work. It was published without cost to the Commission, other than occasional trips to the field for material, or in connection with the printing of the publication, which was done by Florida Grower Press, Tampa, as an expression of interest in conservation of wildlife resources in Florida and in the hope that out of the publication, in time, might grow a sport magazine for Florida. "Outdoor Florida" carried the story of Florida's wildlife, the work of the State for its conservation and featured hunting, fishing and other outdoor events of interest to the sportsmen.

3. Section in Sportsmen's Guide

"Sport Fishing in Florida," an illustrated section of thirty-two pages in a 50,000 issue of a guide book for sportsmen to the Southeastern States, was prepared. Information has reached the Commission from the editors of the guide book that the first issue of the publication was purchased by the Illinois Central Railroad and distributed in the territory which it serves.

4. Sport Fishing Folder

"Florida Sport Fishing," a two-color folder on this subject was prepared and 15,000 copies printed. These have been highly appreciated by the Florida cities and towns featuring the sport fishing of their respective sections.

5. Lecture in University Extension Course

A lecture on the work of the Commission, Florida's game animals and the fish of Florida's fresh waters—supplementing a series of lectures on Florida birds given by Dr. A. H. Hadley of the University of Florida as a part of the extension course for teachers preparing to teach conservation in the schools—was given in this course to teachers in eight counties.

6. Exhibits

Assistance was given with the wildlife exhibits at the Winter Haven Orange Festival and the State Fair in 1936.

7. Press and Publicity

Articles for press and other publications have come from this division. The press of the state has been liberal with its space for news regarding Florida's wildlife, and strong in its support of conservation.

8. Bulletin for Schools

In conformity with an Act passed by the 1935 session of the Legislature requiring teachers to teach the natural resources of Florida and their conservation throughout the school system of the State, a bulletin is in process of preparation now for use in this work. This is one of the greatest opportunities ever offered or providing information regarding the wildlife of the State, its value and its need of conservation.

COOPERATION

At no time have sportsmen been as interested in organizing for conservation, nor more actively interested in promoting the conservation program. The Civic organizations, women's clubs, chambers of commerce, State Chamber of Commerce and State Junior Chamber of Commerce are standing squarely back of Florida's conservation program, while the press of the State, instant in season and out of season, is lending strong support all along the line.

So strong had sentiment grown among these various agencies that when President Roosevelt called in February, 1936 for the meeting in Washington of all interested in Conservation, Florida was not only ready to send representatives, but ready to follow the suggested plan, born of this movement, namely: that in each State all organizations interested in conservation of natural resources, particularly in wildlife resources, should get together, work out a plan adapted to the needs of their respective State, pool their efforts and put it in effect.

The organization of the Florida Conservation Council resulted. Outstanding citizens were chosen to man it. Peter G. Ward, of Jacksonville, deeply interested in conservation and an able worker, was made president. Thirty-two organizations in Florida signified their willingness to operate under this plan. Today this group has in preparation a legislative program which they will propose to the Legislature, soon to meet, for the better conservation of wildlife in Florida. Results come from the efforts of all, but to that tireless worker, David M. Newell, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council, and nationally known sportsman and writer, who has given unstintingly of time and effort, and with no remuneration other than the returns in the better conservation of wildlife for which he, and those who have ably supported him in this work, hope, special appreciation is due.

The calling of the Wildlife Conference was not all that the Federal Government has done during the biennium to promote

the conservation of wildlife in the States which the Commission recognizes and for which it is grateful. Cooperation of constituted agencies of the Federal Government dealing with wildlife has been at all times readily available and wholeheartedly given. Particular mention is made of that extended by the United States Bureau of Biological Survey and the United States Bureau of Fisheries.

Consideration given rehabilitation of wildlife in Federal Resettlement Projects, and in the soil conservation program are worthy of special mention and commendation.

The Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish is keenly conscious of the effort involved in the cooperation given by the many agencies mentioned, and the extent to which such cooperation has made possible results for which the Commission has worked. This cooperation is appreciated. Its continuance is needed if the objective of the work is to be attained, namely the rebuilding and conservation of Florida's wildlife resources. With such help, wholeheartedly given, this objective can be reached. It is to this the Commission looks forward.



Fishing Waters—Steinhatchee River.

PART II

SUMMARIZED REPORT OF COMMISSION MEETINGS July 1st, 1935 to December 31st, 1936

During the eighteen months and five days for which this report is made, June 25th, 1935, to December 31st, 1936, twelve meetings have been held at the following places.

Tallahassee—June 25th, 1935.
Orlando—August 12th, 1935.
Tallahassee—September 23rd, 1935.
Tallahassee—December 17th, 1936.
Jacksonville—January 20th, 1936.
Tallahassee—April 6th, 1936.
Tallahassee—June 26th, 1936.
Winter Haven—July 20th, 1936.
Orlando—October 19th, 1936.
Naples—November 7th, 1936.

A brief but significant report of the problems given special attention by the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish at its regular and called meetings follows.

Tallahassee, June 25, 1935: This the first meeting of the Commissioners appointed from the five Congressional Districts of Florida as members of the State Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish, created by the 1935 session of the Legislature, was devoted to organization, consideration of finances and the making of plans for carrying on the work. Since this is fully reported on pages 9 and 10 of this report it will not be repeated here.

Orlando, August 12th, 1935: With July sale of licenses reported it was felt that the budget for County Conservation Officers could be raised a little. The Commission voted to raise each of the five districts from \$1,000.00 per district to \$1,100.00 for September, \$1,200.00 for October and November.

The Executive Secretary was instructed to arrange under the Workmen's Compensation Law for protection for employees.

Representatives of the Federal Rehabilitation Administration, including the late State Senator William Pannil, presented a proposed lease for the Welaka Fish Hatchery which, after due consideration, was signed by the Commission. This hatchery has been so expanded by the expenditure of FERA, CWA and WPA funds as to be too costly for the Commission to operate on funds available.

The Pinellas County Commissioners offered to pay for a County Conservation Officer until December 1st, and after that date to pay \$50.00 a month toward this cost, the Commission to assume the remainder. This was agreed to.

Tallahassee, September 23rd, 1935: Reports of receipts and expenditures as of August 31st, showed that receipts from all sources totaled for July and August \$6,597.02; expense for the same period, \$17,856.63. The difference was absorbed by monies in the State Game Fund when operations started, July 1st, 1935.

Estimated operating expense for September, October, November was \$27,000.00. It was estimated that the needed \$8,391.34 above the funds on hand would be produced by receipts for the period and would make possible a general increase of \$400.00 per district for October, November and December which was authorized.

The Executive Secretary reported 24,000 fishing licenses, 50,000 hunting licenses printed and supplies mailed to County Judges. He also reported 1,000 copies of the game and fish laws printed and 25,000 summaries of the law.

The offer of the Florida Grower Press relative to publishing a magazine sponsored by the Commission was considered. The Executive Secretary and Commissioner Garner were authorized to handle the matter.

Insurance on the oxygen-tank truck was ordered taken out. Deeds to the caretakers house and garage, Winter Haven Fish Hatchery, were reported as cleared.

Gulf County presented a claim for \$4,722.27 asked for reimbursement for purchase by the County of site for Wewahitchka Hatchery. The Executive Secretary was requested to meet with Commissioners for conference on matter.

The Federal Government having delayed taking over operation of We'laka Hatchery and Game Farm, \$17.01 per day for salaries and cost of operation was authorized until transfer was made. (Transfer not completed until December.)

Dr. J. V. Knapp, representing the State Live Stock Sanitary Board requested cooperation in tick eradication by reduction of deer in restricted areas where deer were infested and served as carriers. Chairman Wiensenfeld called attention to the law fixing open season—November 20th to December 31st, and Commission requested Dr. Knapp and the Executive Secretary to confer with the Attorney General on the matter.

Tallahassee, December 17th, 1935: Inquiry from Chief of U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey relative to possibility of setting up in Florida a Cooperative Wildlife Research and Game Management unit to be financed in part by Survey, in part by Commission and in part by Florida State College of Agriculture was considered and action deferred, as finances were not available.

Leesburg Chamber of Commerce was notified that seining of Lake Griffin had served its purpose and seining was ordered stopped.

Each Commissioner was authorized to withdraw from any County in his respective district where support of game law enforcement by courts was not given, the reward offered for information leading to arrest and conviction of party or parties for taking deer, quail and turkey illegally or for selling black bass. Action was taken on notice that conviction of violator for killing doe deer had brought penalty of but \$10.00 fine and cost.

Executive Secretary was instructed to contest law exempting residents of Suwannee County from payment of license to hunt in said county. Law later declared unconstitutional.

Consideration was given offer of Florida Grower Press to publish without cost to State a magazine under auspices of Commission, provided Commission would furnish material of

sufficient reader interest and photographs illustrating, to warrant publication. Offer was accepted and Director of Education instructed to prepare material and edit magazine. (Cost of \$50.00 per month for field expense of Director was allowed.)

Jacksonville, January 20th, 1936: The budget for coming six months was fixed. The total \$85,420.00 (contingent upon available revenue) was as follows: Administration—\$7,000.00; Five Chief Conservation Officers (salary and travel)—\$9,000.00; County Conservation Officers—First District—\$11,250.00, Second District—\$12,420.00, Third District—\$11,160.00, Fourth District—\$8,490.00 (only nine counties in the Fourth District), Fifth—\$10,050.00, Fish Hatcheries (Winter Haven and Welaka) \$4,300.00, Fairs—\$300.00, Field Equipment (motors, boats, trailers)—\$1,000.00, Restocking game—\$10,000.00; authorization was given for trip for Chairman of Commission, Commissioner from the First District and the Executive Secretary to attend Wildlife Conference, February 2nd—7th, called by President of United States, Chief Officer of Second District, C. E. Clarke, Jr., (who is Chairman of Conservation Committee U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, and who represented that organization in organizing the Conference and promoting organization of State Conservation Councils) also attended, going at Federal expense.

First copy of OUTDOOR FLORIDA reported in circulation and well received. Publishers, pleased with copy submitted, had printed 7,500 copies instead of 2,000 agreed to.

Tallahassee, April 6th, 1936: Executive Secretary reported on Washington Wildlife Conference where he delivered paper "Fluctuations in Population of Bobwhite Quail in the South."

Secretary also reported an invitation from General Extension Division of University of Florida to deliver a lecture (one of a series of twelve) to be given in eight counties to classes of teachers taking extension course in Conservation of Florida's Natural Resources in preparation for teaching in Florida schools. This was assigned Division of Education and was given by Sarah W. Partridge, in charge of educational program of Commission.

He reported progress in taking of quail from breeding grounds for restocking areas that had been overshot.

Granting of Scientific Permits for taking Florida wildlife was discussed. One was denied, two granted.

Purchase of truck for Winter Haven Fish Hatchery was authorized.

Tallahassee, June 26th, 1936: Renewal of two scientific permits was granted and three permits to trap certain predatory

animals on three Federal Land Utilization Projects, for information in research program of wildlife management, and four permits for bird-banding on request of President Florida Audubon Society.

Financial report showed revenue for period, July 1st, 1935 to June 25th, 1936 to be \$143,317.17 which with \$29,369.54 (balance transferred to State Game Fund from Conservation Board, July 1st, 1935) total \$172,686.71. Disbursements during that period—\$120,324.03. Balance on hand—\$52,362.68. This would maintain operations during summer months when incoming revenue is small.

This was last meeting of Commission in which C. G. Magruder participated as a member of the Commission. He had held the one year appointment provided for by law for the first Commission, that terms of Commissioners might expire at different dates. Mr. Magruder's year in office had been one of enthusiastic, tireless effort which had advanced the conservation program not only in District Five but throughout the State. Mr. H. L. MacDonald of Orlando was appointed to succeed Mr. Magruder.

Winter Haven, July 20th, 1936: Executive Secretary reported that during the first year of operation of Commission fourteen State Game Breeding Grounds had been added to those already existing; that number of County Conservation Officers now totaled 70; Honorary Commissioners, appointed on recommendation of Commissioner of respective district of residence, numbered 420; that line of demarcation between salt and fresh waters had been set on request of Board of County Commissioners of Flagler County in Pellicer Creek; and in St. Lucie County for north fork of St. Lucie River at request of St. Lucie Board concurred in by Board of Martin County; that Mr. Frank A. Albert, Supervisor of U. S. Forest Service in Florida, had been given permit to remove garfish from waters in Ocala and Osceola National Forests; that more than 1,100 quail had been trapped from breeding grounds and released, most of them in the First and Fifth Districts; that a few turkeys purchased had gone, largely to the Fourth District; that, to date, bass fingerling had been placed as follows: First District—260,000, Second District—168,500, Third District—19,000, Fourth District—8,000 (all that were requested by the Fourth District), Fifth—174,000. Total—629,500. This total, all from Winter Haven Hatchery, was to reach a million before the close of 1936 season. Executive Secretary reported that due to fact that WPA work at Wewahatchka Hatchery had been in process for many months, and hatchery at this point was in its infancy, production there

would not be great; also that survey showed heavy loss of deer, turkey and quail in Lee, Glades, Collier and Hendry Counties due to unprecedented rainfall (Counties later ordered closed to all shooting for current season December 31st); request was made that funds be budgeted for biennial report, to be prepared by Educational Division and come from press in time to submit to members of Legislature prior to convening of 1937 Session; and for funds for publishing two color folder "Florida Sport Fishing", which Educational Division was completing (the attractive cover for folder, work of staff artist of State Planning Board); also reported mimeographed bulletin on Birds of Florida (11 pages) had been prepared; also that with cooperation of State Planning Board, a map showing State and Federal Breeding Grounds and Refuges, was ready for printing.

Law Enforcement Division report for fiscal year was submitted:

	Arrests	Convictions	Aquittals	Pending
1st District	50	29	5	16
2nd District	85	51	6	28
3rd District	146	100	4	42
4th District	83	64	5	14
5th District	99	86	3	10
	<hr/> 463	<hr/> 330	<hr/> 23	<hr/> 110

Commission ordered all Scientific Permits issued "Valid until Recalled" be recalled and any further permit issued be "for one year from date issued." Two applications for permits were granted.

Reported that State Supreme Court had declared unconstitutional St. Johns County Law providing for open deer season in summer.

Honorary Commissions requested by Mr. Frank L. Albert, U. S. Forestry Supervisor, were given certain employees of the U. S. Forest Service.

Dr. F. D. McKenney, U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, and loaned by the Bureau to U. S. Bureau of Animal Husbandry, was given permit to take twelve buck deer in designated State Breeding Grounds for study of cattle fever tick. Arrangements were made for a Conservation Officer to accompany Dr. McKenney on trip to secure specimens, carcasses of deer to be destroyed as soon as they had served their purpose.

Uniforms for Conservation Officers were authorized to be purchased by Commission.

Salaries of Chief Conservation Officers were increased from \$150.00 to \$175.00 per month.

Tallahassee, September 28th, 1936. Executive Secretary reported that three additional Game Breeding Grounds, one in LaFayette County, one in Orange County, one in Flagler County, had been established since last meeting of Commission; also that distribution of fingerling bass from hatcheries was complete, approximately one million, and hatcheries were being conditioned for reception of brood bass for following season. Financial statement showed receipts from all sources, July 1st, 1936 to September 26th, 1936 totaled \$10,983.42, that disbursements totaled \$25,916.23, and cash on hand \$34,243.23, with September, October and November bills to be met before returns from sale of general hunting licenses would become available.

First among the visitors to the meeting to be heard was one of the members of the Board of Commissioners of Gulf County and the Attorney for the Board, who presented a claim for \$4,722.00 which, it was stated, the county had paid on authorization of Mr. George W. Davis, Conservation Commissioner, as purchase price for lands on which Wewahitchka Hatchery was built. Commission instructed Executive Secretary to meet with the Board to confer on matter.

Senator J. J. Parrish made plea against killing of deer and young turkeys in preserves by range riders of Tick Eradication agencies.

Delegation from Highlands County, representing cattle owners of section, asked that breeding grounds in southern part of County be opened for hunting on account of deer being infested with ticks making it difficult to complete work of tick eradication. On recommendation of Dr. F. G. Garner, Commissioner of the First District, this was agreed to, and also the opening of Glades County breeding ground, which Dr. Garner stated the Board of County Commissioners had requested.

Dr. T. W. Cole, representing the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry in its work in Florida, discussed the program of tick eradication in Florida, the effect of tick infested deer upon it in highly restricted areas, endorsed the report previously made by Dr. McKenney and submitted a written proposition to the Commission regarding cooperative agreement between Commission and Federal and State Agencies directing tick eradication in Florida.

A representative of the Tosohatchee Game Preserve in Orange County (privately owned) asked that sportsmen be heard before final action was taken in matter of killing deer, and, at suggestion of Commissioner H. L. McDonald, hearing in Orlando, October 19th, was announced.

The late Senator William Pannil asked that the swamp section of Hernando State Breeding Ground be opened for

hunting during the coming season to satisfy demands of local people. The matter was referred to Commissioner Garner in whose District this County lies.

A request from the U. S. Biological Survey that certain Keys lying at the southern part of Florida be made bird refuges was referred to Commissioner H. L. Schaller, and on his recommendation this was done.

Mr. W. M. Dunson of the Welaka Fish Hatchery and Game Farm, representing Dr. Hartman of the Federal Rehabilitation Administration, came before the Commission to ask for an option on the property for the Federal Government, stating that unless such was given, the development at Welaka would cease. The option was granted, subject to final action by the State Legislature. The request that the Rehabilitation Administration be given right to "improve, remove, alter or demolish or to complete construction of existing buildings, structures, works or improvement upon buildings situate upon said premises, and to engage in construction of such buildings, structures, works or improvements thereon as may be desired to accomplish its objects and purposes was agreed to.

Orlando, October 19th, 1936. At this meeting, called that sportsmen might be heard regarding "tick on deer on cattle problem," the Commission was represented by Chairman Wiesenfeld, Commissioners McDonald, Schaller, Garner, and Executive Secretary Kennedy, Dr. J. V. Knapp, State Veterinarian and directing the State Tick Eradication work, and Dr. T. W. Cole of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry. Dr. J. V. Knapp, represented State and Federal agencies.

After full discussion of matter it was agreed that, on proviso in Resolution that the State Live Stock Sanitary Board agree to pay \$25.00 for each deer killed in State Breeding Grounds open to shooting of deer on account of tick infestation (to a number not to exceed 1,000) in event U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry failed to secure payment of obligation, the Commission would permit the taking of deer in the fixed areas opened, November 20th to December 31st; and that in privately owned preserves the Commission would act as intermediary between Live Stock Board and Preserve owners.

Naples, November 7th, 1936. A called meeting was held at Naples on request that sportsmen and cattle owners of Collier County within which lay the section of the breeding ground which would be opened for shooting of deer because of tick infestation, be heard on the action of the Commission opening these tick infested areas.

Those representatives of the Commission who served at Orlando also sat at Naples.

The Live Stock Sanitary Board and the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, the Collier County Commissioners and the interested group of cattle men and sportsmen attended.

PART III

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

July 1, 1935 to June 30, 1936

July 1, 1936 to December 31, 1936

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

July 1, 1935, to June 30, 1936

RECEIPTS

Funds Transferred from State Board of Conservation		\$ 29,369.54
Hunting Licenses	\$100,241.00	
Fishing Licenses	39,085.00	
Trapping Licenses	5,074.00	\$144,400.00

COMMERCIAL LICENSES

Retail Fish Dealers	1,685.00	
Wholesale Fish Dealers	1,100.00	
Commercial Boat	280.30	
Boat for Hire	1,120.50	
Wholesale Fur Dealers and Agents	1,205.00	
Local Fur Dealer	110.00	
Game Farm License	70.00	
Guide License	50.00	5,620.80

MISCELLANEOUS

Court Costs	1,562.69		
Dividend from Closed Bank	1.68		
Confiscated Nets Sold	231.00		
Confiscated Furs and Hides	87.50		
Old License	33.00	1,915.87	151,936.67
Florida Bird Life	162.00	162.00	162.00
			\$181,468.21

DISBURSEMENTS
ADMINISTRATION

Office Salaries	\$ 7,320.00	
Traveling Expense, Exec. Sec'y	1,076.02	
Traveling Expense, Commissioners	991.06	
Traveling Expense, Wild Life Con.	276.11	
Miscellaneous Expense	614.84	
Office Supplies	326.58	
Postage, Telephone and Telegraph	867.04	
Printing and Stationery	1,894.68	
Premium on Bond	35.00	
Legal Expense	150.00	13,551.93

FIELD EXPENSE

Salaries Conservation Officers	64,776.73	
Traveling Expenses Con. Officers	37,867.13	
Premium on Compensation Insurance	1,263.00	
Purchase and Maintenance of Equipment	1,534.14	
Miscellaneous Field Expense	143.61	
Special Expense Rewards Paid	625.00	
Game Conservation on High Water	336.50	106,546.11

WELAKA HATCHERY

Salaries	1,966.52	
Truck Operations	4.87	
Misc. Supplies	35.74	
Power and Lights	288.16	
Feed Account	62.21	
Gas and Oil	140.28	
Telephone and Telegraph	39.66	
Labor	10.00	
Traveling	23.52	2,570.96

WEWAHITCHKA HATCHERY

Salaries	1,925.00	
Labor	68.00	
Light and Power	48.80	
Supplies	64.80	
Truck Operations	187.61	
Gas and Oil	407.76	
Bass Restocking	234.19	2,936.16

WINTER HAVEN HATCHERY

Salaries	1,200.00	
Traveling Expense	253.90	
Labor	1,256.00	
Supplies	264.70	
Truck Operations	119.87	
Gas and Oil	418.09	
Premium on Truck	179.64	
Special Expense	77.00	3,769.20
Restocking	482.91	482.91

EDUCATION

Salary Educational Director	1,800.00		
Miscellaneous Magazine	28.55		
Magazine Traveling	172.83		
Miscellaneous Fair Expense	62.23		
Fair Expense, Lectures, and Traveling	167.08	2,230.69	\$132,087.96
Refund Old License	48.00		
Remittance Florida Bird Life Book	155.59	203.59	

CASH ACCOUNT

Balance in State Treasury	45,115.99		
Balance in Lewis State Bank	3,979.17	49,095.16	
Due from County Judges	81.50	81.50	49,380.25
			\$181,468.21

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

July 1, 1936, to December 31, 1936

RECEIPTS

Balance on Hand June 30, 1936			\$ 49,176.66
Advance from County Judges	\$ 1,310.75		
Hunting Licenses	\$105,249.00		
Fishing Licenses	14,809.00		
Trapping Licenses	4,526.00	124,584.00	

COMMERCIAL LICENSES

Retail Fish Dealer	775.00		
Wholesale Fish Dealer	600.00		
Commercial Boat	145.00		
Boat for Hire	741.50		
Wholesale Fur Dealers—Agents	1,220.00		
Local Fur Dealers	120.00		
Game Farm	45.00		
Guides	120.00	3,766.50	

MISCELLANEOUS

Court Costs	1,272.42		
Confiscated Nets	530.00		
Confiscated Fish	15.50		
Confiscated Furs and Hides	38.00		
Sale of Old Truck at Hatchery	25.00	1,880.92	
Previous Years Licenses	2,055.00	2,055.00	133,597.17
Florida Bird Life	54.00	54.00	54.00

TOTAL

\$182,827.83

DISBURSEMENTS
ADMINISTRATION

Office Salaries	3,720.00		
Traveling, Executive Sec'y	591.35		
Traveling, Commissioners	608.65		
Miscellaneous	402.39		
Office Supplies	305.62		
Post-Tel. and Telegraph	489.97		
Printing and Stationery	1,514.10		
Premium on Bonds	10.00	7,642.08	

FIELD EXPENSE

Salaries Con. Officers	39,949.17		
Traveling Con. Officers	27,642.88		
Legal Expense	292.75		
Miscellaneous	1,258.63		
Premium on Comp. Insurance	1,743.94		
Purchase and Maintenance			
Equipment	456.28		
Rewards Paid	525.00		
Restocking	1,099.45	72,968.10	

EDUCATION

Salaries	1,108.26		
Traveling	141.71		
Miscellaneous	62.14	1,312.11	

WEWAHITCHKA HATCHERY

Salaries	1,050.00		
Light and Power	37.97		
Supplies	23.05		
Truck Hire	60.00		
Gasoline and Oil	177.99	1,349.01	

WINTER HAVEN HATCHERY

Salaries	625.00		
Traveling	206.82		
Labor	924.00		
Supplies	144.16		
Truck Operations	175.69		
Gasoline and Oil	488.05		
Construction	660.94	3,224.66	86,495.96

CASH ACCOUNT

Balance in State Treasury	88,620.03		
Balance in Lewis State Bank	7,711.84	96,331.87	96,331.87
TOTAL			\$182,827.83



INDEX

Submitting Report	Page 3
Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish	4
Letter of Transmittal	5
"Out Fishin'"	6

PART I

Foreword	Page 7
Report	8
Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish Created	9
Commission Appointed	9
Organization	9
Office Staff	10
Rewards Offered	10
"Pals"	11
How Commission has Operated	12
Finances	12
District Budgets	12
Revenue	13
Licenses Sold	14
"End of a Perfect Day"	15
Vested Rights Basis of State Game Legislation	15
License for Taking or Trafficking in Wildlife	16
Game Census	17
Bag Limits and Seasons	17
Florida's Game and Fur-bearing Animals	17
A Comparison	18
Deer Problem in Florida	19
"Hope of the Future"	20
Closed Season on Fox Squirrel Needed	21
Status of Game Birds in Florida	21
Wild Turkey	22
Doves	22
Wild Ducks and Geese	23
Better Protection for Birds and Mammals	23
Fur-Bearing Animals	24
The Bear	24
Number Trappers Decline as Fur-bearers Decrease	24
"This Fellow Asks Your Protection"	25
Revenue to State Decreases	25
Muskrats	25
Conservation Officers' Training School	26
The Alligator	28
Rebuilding Wildlife	29
Wildlife and Soil Conservation Program	29
State Breeding Grounds	29
Restocking	30
Game Fish of Fresh And Brackish Waters	31
Fishing License	31
Supply vs Demand	32
Significance of Black Bass Law of 1935	32
Bass of Lake Okeechobee	33
"Truck Filled from 'Fingerling Corral', Ready to Go."	34
Fish Hatcheries	35
Welaka Hatchery	35
Winter Haven Hatchery	36
Wewahitchka Hatchery	36, 37
Distribution from Winter Haven and Wewahitchka	38

INDEX—Continued

	Page
Seining of Lakes for Rough Fish and to Reduce Sunfish.....	39
Striped Bass	39
Stream Pollution	40
The Problem	41
Law Enforcement Division	41
Education	42
Co-operation	44

PART II

	Page
Summarized Report of Commission Meetings	
June 25, 1935 to December 31st, 1936	47-54

PART III

	Page
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements	
July 1, 1935 to June 30, 1936	56, 57
July 1, 1936 to December 31, 1936	58, 59



ROSE PRINTING COMPANY, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
